

KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WATER YOU DRINK----
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS DUE ON JULY 1

Jefferson City (June 28, 2000)---As part of federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, your local water company must provide an annual report which provides customers with important information about their drinking water safety and quality.

The Missouri Public Service Commission and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources would like to alert citizens to the release of "Consumer Confidence Reports" that are due out on July 1, 2000.

"Consumer Confidence Reports should be read carefully by everyone," stated Missouri Public Service Commission Chair Sheila Lumpe. "Depending on the type of utility that provides their water, consumers may get reports with their water bills, find them published in newspapers or may see them on the Internet and in public places," stated Chair Lumpe.

Water systems that serve more than 10,000 people are required under federal law to mail these reports to bill-paying customers. All community water systems are required to produce and distribute a "Consumer Confidence Report". These systems include cities, water districts, subdivisions, mobile home parks and other water systems serving at least 25 residents.

"If a customer doesn't receive a report in the mail and would like a report, we encourage the customer to contact his or her local water company and ask for the report," stated Lumpe.

"We want customers to know as much as possible about the quality of their drinking water, so they can make informed decisions about their health and become involved in issues effecting their water system," said Steve Mahfood, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the nation's safe drinking water laws and determines what is to be contained in the "Consumer Confidence Reports". At a minimum, each local water utility must disclose:

- * Water Sources;
- * Actual and possible contaminant levels;
- * What the utility does to meet federal drinking water standards;

(More)

- * What consumers can do to avoid or remedy problems; and

* Who to call for more information, including the utility's telephone number and the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Those who do not receive a copy of the "Consumer Confidence Report" may obtain one from the water company, community water system, or from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Public Drinking Water Program at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-5331.

"Families have the right to know what's in their drinking water and if it is safe," Lumpe emphasized. "We have labels for food, for cosmetics, for drugs.....these reports will provide a label to let us know the quality of the water we drink."

---0---